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**Macworld**

## The tiny iOS 26.4.2 update that arrived this week is actually a really big deal

### Summary

The article describes the significance of the iOS 26.4.2 update, which addresses a vulnerability in the Notification Services. The vulnerability was exploited by the FBI to access Signal messages from a deleted app on a defendant's iPhone. The article emphasizes the importance of installing the update for Signal users to protect their privacy.

The update fixes a flaw in Apple's notification system that could allow authorities to retrieve deleted messages.

By [Roman Loyola](#) Senior Editor, Macworld APR 24, 2026 9:21 am PDT

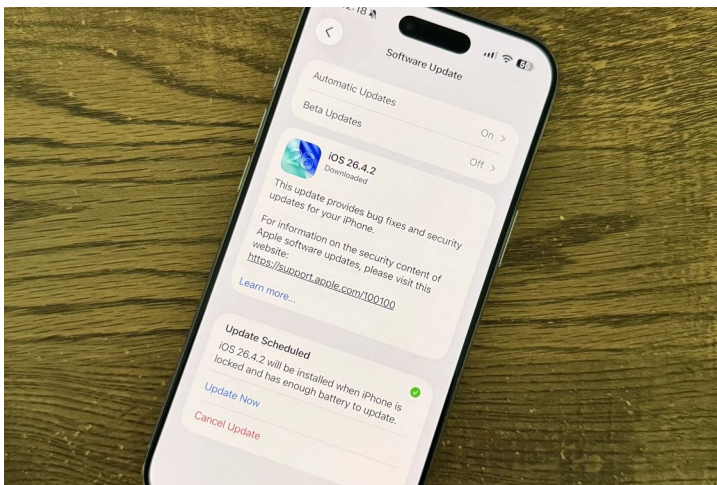


Image: Foundry

Earlier this week, [Apple released](#) iOS 26.4.2, which, [according to Apple](#), includes only a single security patch for “Notification Services.” While it seemed like a fairly innocuous fix for deleted notifications that “could be unexpectedly retained on the device,” it turns out that the flaw is a bigger deal than it seems.

According to [The Hacker News](#), the vulnerability was used by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in a [case](#) in Texas. The FBI exploited the flaw

to get Signal messages from a defendant’s iPhone, even though Signal had been deleted from the device. The site reports that the deleted messages were retrieved in connection with an attack on the [Prairieland ICE detention center facility](#) after the app was deleted, by taking advantage of copies of the content saved in the device’s push notification database.

[Signal](#) is a messaging app with increased privacy controls, including end-to-end encryption, automatic message deletion, message history stored on-device instead of on servers, and code verification of messages. Signal is often used by journalists, [government officials](#), and other users who want increased security.

The flaw was important enough to Apple that it issued the iOS 26.4.2 update just to fix the vulnerability. If you are a Signal user, you should install the update as soon as

possible (Settings > *General* > *Software Update*). The iPhone will need to restart. [Learn more about iOS 26 in our superguide.](#)

**Author: Roman Loyola, Senior Editor, Macworld**

Roman is a Macworld Senior Editor with over 30 years of experience covering the tech industry, focusing on the Mac and other products in the Apple ecosystem. He is also the host of the Macworld Podcast. His career started at MacUser, where he received Apple certification as a repair technician (when Apple did that kind of thing). He's also worked for MacAddict, MacLife, and TechTV.